

875-157

S K E T C H E S
O F
MODERN IMPROVEMENTS:
A
P O E T I C A L E S S A Y.

4

Alterations

Dedictory Sonnet

to

Major-General Michael Pascoe

Gen.

Gen.

Gen.

2:7 - My Pascoe

ADVERTISEMENT

DEDICATORY SONNET.

FRRIEND of my brighter days, whose soul sincere
Hail'd the fair prospects of the flatt'ring morn,
O'er noontide clouds now drop the soothing tear,
And cheer the gloom of wretchedness forlorn:
Incumbent mists disperse, and blushing fly,
Soon as the sun's keen ray pervades the low'ring sky.
My Lucius, once I wept thy hapless fate,
By sorrow now allied, teach me thy art,
With dignity, to give this prison state,
And make affliction virtue's charms impart.
To thee this verse is due, whose patriot mind
Exults in glories which thy country crown,
And ardent heaves to swell her high renown;
Triumphant by her arms, and by her arts refin'd.

Camden, South-Carolina, February 17th, 1782.

DEDICATORY SONNET.

FRIEND of my brighter days, whose soul sincere
 Hail'd the fair prospect of the rising morn,
 O'er noonday clouds now drop the soothing tear,
 And cheer the gloom of wretchedness forlorn:
 Incumbent mists disperse, and blathing fly,
 Soon as the sun's keen ray pervades the lowering sky.
 My friends, once I wept thy hapless fate,
 By sorrow now all'd, teach me thy art,
 With dignity, to give this prison state,
 And make affliction virtue's chains impart.
 To thee this verse is due, whose patriot mind
 Exalts in glories which thy country crown,
 And ardent hoves to swell her high renown;
 Triumphant by her arms, and by her arts renown'd.

Camden, South-Carolina, February 17th, 1782.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following essay is but some outlines of an extensive work, wholly planned, though but in part executed; as it was written to dissipate the gloom of misfortunes, which denied access to books, or the means of recent information: nor is it likely to be renewed by a mind, not given to studious pursuits, when the causes which have *now* induced it, are happily no more.

Though this larger work is attempted in the common heroic verse, as most suited to the narrative and didactic parts which should diversify it; yet, as distinct images and ideas can be more forcibly expressed in the quatrain of ten syllables, that measure has been chosen, being, in the opinion of Dryden, not less dignified, as best adapted to the purposes of this abstract. To confirm this judgment, it may not be inapposite to observe, that the justly-admired elegy in a country church-yard, though a splendid mass of brilliant thoughts and glowing language, is so little consecutive, that there are few stanzas in it which might not be transposed, without essential injury to sense or order.

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TO clearly illustrate this essay, and avoid the frequent interruption of notes, it has been found necessary to prefix the following

A R G U M E N T.

THE subject proposed, st. 1—Incitements to manly exertions, st. 3—Security derived from the unequalled freedom of the law, st. 7, and its judges being rendered independent, st. 8—Advantages accruing from the new In-land-Navigations, st. 10, to be ascribed to the public spirit of the Duke of Bridgewater, st. 12, and the uncommon genius of Mr. Brindley, st. 13—Agriculture extended by in-land-navigation, st. 15, and improved by the new, or drill-and-hoe, husbandry, st. 16, and the adopting foreign grasses, st. 17—Planting trees necessary, st. 18; beneficial to the nation, and therefore honorable to the planter; instanced in the pine introduced from New-England by Lord Weymouth, which now bears his name, st. 19—Importance of raising madder and other dyers drugs, st. 20—Good effects from late enclosures, and the cultivating of common, and waste lands, st. 22—Elegance of the present taste in gardening, st. 23—Establishment of the “Society of Artists of Great-Britain” by his Majesty, st. 24—Our perfection in painting, st. 25; instanced in the death of Count Hugolino, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, st. 26, the raising of Lazarus, an altar-piece, by West, st. 27, and the death of Lord Chatham, by Copeley, st. 28—Proficiency in sculpture, st. 29—In architecture, with its acquired ornaments, st. 30, a wish that Inigo Jones’ plan for the royal palace should be carried into execution, st. 31—The establishing, in a great degree, the language by the “English Dictionary,” st. 32—Discoveries and improvements in navigation, st. 34, exemplified by the circumnavigations of Cooke, st. 35, and Lord

**Mulgrave's voyage towards the north-pole, ft. 37—Pro-
spects of future advancements in learning and science,
ft. 38; and that the longitude may hereafter be ascer-
tained on principles more fixed than the complex me-
chanism of Mr. Harrison's time-piece added, ft. 39, with
the benefits which from thence would result to com-
merce, &c. ft. 41.**

THE subject proposed, ft. 1—Inventions to be made
exercises, ft. 2—Security derived from the unequalled
freedom of the law, ft. 3, and its judges being rendered
independent, ft. 8—Advantages accruing from the new
Inland-Navigations, ft. 10, to be attributed to the public
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and the cultivating of common, and waste lands, ft. 22—
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and bloom of the "Society of Artists of Great-Britain"
by his Majesty, ft. 24—Our perfection in painting, ft. 25;
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the language by the "English Dictionary", ft. 32—Disco-
veries and improvements in navigation, ft. 34, exempli-
fied by the circumnavigations of Cook, ft. 35, and Lord

Alterations

St. 1. 25 - rap their bound

Do 4 - these lonesome hours beguile

SKETCHES

OF

MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.

1.

THO' wakeful guards, and dreary walls furround,
And liberty with-holds her placid smile,
Yet shall my mind, triumphant, leap their bound;
And rising arts the tedious hours beguile.

2.

Those arts which deck fair Albion pleas'd I sing,
Since fate denies me longer to defend
Her sacred laws, her empire, and her king;
To british themes, ye Britons then attend.

3.

Let no debasing doubts that ardor damp,
Which glows, your country to improve or save;
Be yours the wish of fame's distinctive stamp;
"The paths of glory lead beyond the grave."

4.

'Tis glorious in her injur'd cause to rise,
O'er ocean's billowy realms her rights sustain;
To brave surrounding foes, and feverish skies
Or bleed to serve her, on the hostile plain:

B

5.

Yet not less glorious is his peaceful meed
Who, with inventive mind, at early morn
Tries the new plough, or plants th' exotic seed,
And views fresh crops paternal fields adorn:

6.

And oft the civic and the martial crown
Their fragrant flow'rs and verdant foliage twine:
Where vict'ry bears her country's wide renown
The aiding arts in equal honours shine.

7.

Where liberty extends her ample guard,
Beneath her mountain throne the valley smiles;
Rough labour seeks his spare, but known reward,
Whilst ~~his~~ content his ev'ry care beguiles:

8.

The just promulgers of her mild ordains,
Unaw'd by pow'r, and freed from servile fear,
Stand the firm barrier which the law maintains;
Expound its precepts, and its rules revere.

9.

Long may such laws, and may such judges sway;
And may their genial influence spread around,
From Ganges glist'ning with the sun's first ray,
To where it streaks Columbia's furthest bound!

10.

To give connexion to divided seas,
And speed the sails of commerce thro' the land,
Shall yield to George's reign unfading praise,
And loud acclaims from ev'ry age command.

Alliterations

St. 5. l. 1 — fresh arts his parent fields adorn

6 — 2 — shaded foliage mine

Do — 1 — with equal honors shine

8 — 2 — freed from selfish fear

9 — 1 — Far may such laws

Stanza 26 — "On Arno's banks" — The Author had not then received the pleasure, as well as information, he has since had, from reading Mr Bayley's Epistle to an Eminent Painter; I was therefore truly flattered to find, ~~you~~ you gave a Judge here particularly distinguished this fine Picture of the Great English-Master

St. 7. l. 1

"Gay with the smile of blame & equality"

P. D. Humble N^o 12

Alterations

St. H. 2 - Receive the tribute

12-1 - which the paternal zeal

Additions

After St. 25.

Let Malpote, * ^{eloquent as} garrulous, the wise & good,

Teach, with nice art, to guide the mazy stream;
Sketch the light scene, or paint the shady wood,
With taste, which Nature, Kent, & Brown acclaim.

Note

July 20th 1782

* Vid. such parts of this agreeable writers Anecdote
of Painting as have respect to gardening - It was
Kent who laid out the "groves of Esher": & many of
our modern improvements are the Designs of
the late M^r
Capability Brown.

11.

Imperial Thames shall now, with added pride,
Receive the homage of her distant shores;
Whilst Mersey, Humber, Severn's mingled tide,
Profusely rich, its gather'd tribute pours.

12.

Such are the blessings, which th' advent'rous zeal
Of Egerton on Britain has bestow'd:
No longer genius cou'd her child conceal;
He caught his fire, and with his ardor glow'd.

13.

Brindley, self-taught, with giant force arose;
Surrounding obstacles before him fled;
Nature he vanquish'd, and her host of foes,
And art new legions to his succour led:

14.

Thro' yielding rocks submissive streams he drew;
Affrighted naiades rais'd their willow'd heads,
Saw unknown rivers rushing to the view,
And roll in volumes o'er their coral beds.

15.

Beneath the cumbrous weight of growing trade
No more, oppress'd, the gen'rous steed shall toil,
But joy in works by native pastures paid,
And till to share the produce of the soil.

16.

To rules of science agriculture brought
Assigns the embryo seed dilating space;
And far more rich, and with more lurements fraught,
The robe of Ceres flows in order'd grace.

17.

Th' adoptive earth each healthful grass receives,
Fond of their deep'ning shades and vary'd dies:
From faintfoin's flow'rs, and lucerne's tripl'd leaves
shall ~~hardy~~ flocks, and larger herds arise.

18.

Let spreading trees round rural mansions cast
Their solemn gloom, and venerable shade,
By oak and chefnut, which for ages last,
Corruptless elm, or fragrant cedar made:

19.

Let such their planters monuments remain,
Let such be trophies of their lasting fame;
Thence Britain strength, thence they renown shall gain,
As Weymouth's pine records his patriot name.

20.

As senate bounty warms the teeming land
Shall scarlet madder, orient safflow'r rise;
New cultures court the farmer's thrifty hand,
And british fleeces glow in british dies.

21.

But let not safflow'r virgin charms profane,
Spotless and bright as dews of op'ning day:
For you, ye fair, shall silk its blushes gain,
And o'er your beauties cast a milder ray.

22.

The fruitless common, stretching many a mile,
Now cowslip'd meads, and cheartful farms adorn:
The husbandman sees all around him smile;
And ferny heaths are crown'd with bending corn.

23.

To follow nature thro' each mazy turn,
Obscure her faults, and all her charms unfold,
Instructed gard'ners must from Mason learn;
For who would tell what he before has told?

24.

Shelter'd within a fost'ring monarch's care,
Science displays the polish of her reign:
Their thrones see music, painting, sculpture rear;
And soften'd virtues swell their blooming train.

25.

Whilst british Reynolds, West, and Copeley shine,
No more shall Italy exclusive claim
To trace the passions, wind the graceful line,
Or give that shade which crowns the artist's fame.

26.

On Arno's banks the melting Briton sees
Sad ~~Hugolino~~ gasp exhaustive breath;
Expiring children catch his trembling knees,
And famine trace the ling'ring steps of death.

27.

In Palestine our dazzled eyes survey
The dead, by rending sepulchres restor'd,
In livid paleness rising to the day,
As sov'reign mercy spake the ~~ling'ring~~ word.

28.

Now round their dying chief, with anxious zeal,
The british nobles emulously throng;
Feel ev'ry pang which stabs the publick-weal,
And heav'n implore his glories to prolong.

29.

The sculptor's art, with animated grace,
Will shew the worthies of these fruitful days;
Display glad science smiling on her race,
That swell their patron's, and their monarch's praise.

30.

Where'er we turn, to greet th' attracted eye,
Lo! lofty domes, and stately columns rise:
Their aid ~~ornaments~~ ornaments supply, *Museum*
To fill the niche, or grace the swelling frieze.

31.

Yet still, to her intrinsic merits true,
Let Britain rear the pile which Jones has plan'd;
Let it salute the wond'ring stranger's view,
And praise, unshar'd, from every tongue command.

32.

To fix our language, check erratic flights,
The force of sense and learning Johnson try'd
Prescrib'd its rules, display'd its opening lights,
And triumph'd where contending nations vied.

33.

Tho' that alone sustains an ample fame,
He boasts the poet's eye, a fancy fraught,
Selective taste, with wit's combining flame,
And Attic diction, nerv'd by Roman thought.

34.

Regions till now unknown the ardent force
Of nautic spirit in this age explores:
By dangers unappal'd, his steady course
The sailor bends for Otahiete's shores.

Alterations

- St. 20 l. 2 - Shall crimson madder
 21 - 1 - Yet let not Sappho's
 27 - 1 - Where Jordan flows our Dazzled eyes survey

Inserta

St. 20 l. 3. for Erasmus read Alanus

After Stanza 29.

* See Chatham pleading for Britannia's weal,
 Whilst Fortitude and Prudence aid her cause;
 The Artist's skill displays the Patriotic zeal,
 Still eloquent for Freedom's injured Laws.

* Alluding to the Monument, executed by M^r. Bacon, and erecting
 in Westminster Abbey, to the Memory of the late Earl of Chatham, of
 which there is a fine Mezzotinto Print, by that celebrated Artist,
 M^r. V. Green.

19th June 1783.

Attractions

St. 35 & 4 - The circled world

38 - 4 - And other Bacons, other Newtons rise

40 - 5 - The vary'd hours of Distant time be found,
And nature yield the secrets of her Day.

again

The vary'd hours of wily clime be found,
O'er which resplendent rolls the flow of Day.

Addition

After St. 37

Undaunted mariner! with eye serene

The snow-form'd islands of the Ice-sea

You view'd: nor saw dismay'd that frightful scene,

When the false needle ceas'd to point the way.*

Note

July 15th 1782.

* It has been observed by some voyagers, particularly the noble one here spoken of, that when off Spitzbergen, & in parts of the Arctic-circle, the needle has ^{varied} all the 16 points, ^{or 180 degrees} ~~but whether this~~ phenomenon is to be ascribed to polar attraction, or to the vicinity of metallic bodies, so abundant on those coasts, is yet to be ascertained.

[15]

Endued

35.

~~Endued~~ with genius, persevering, bold,
Cooke felt the flame which Drake and Raleigh fir'd;
The spheric system trac'd midst polar cold,
And thrice th' encircled world his deeds admir'd.

36.

Lost to his country, tho' the hero fell,
His name still lives, and shall for ever bloom:
To other times his worth shall Julia tell,
And twine fresh wreaths round his and Andre's tomb*.

37.

Such deeds shall claim for Mulgrave genuine praise,
Whose zeal and skill in northern climates shone;
Reach'd where the sun scarce cheers with ~~faint~~ rays, languid
And pierc'd the frosts which gird the arctic zone.

38.

Tho' now fair learning smiles in rosy morn,
Soon shall she climb to gild meridian skies;
Bid brighter flow'rs her favor'd isle adorn,
And other Miltons, other Newtons rise.

39.

Perhaps, not distant from these ripen'd years,
Exulting mariners their sons shall teach
The double circuits of revolving spheres,
And fix their art beyond mechanic reach:

40.

Science shall mark the earth's diurnal round,
And note the progress of its east'ring way;
The vary'd hours of every realm be found,
O'er which rejoicing rolls the car of day.

* Vide Miss Seward's elegies on those officers.

Then all her swelling sails shall commerce bend,
 And certain thro' the trackless ocean steer;
 To either India then her treasures send,
 Nor seamen make their coasts in wonted fear.

S I N I S

And other Miltons, other Newtons rise,
 Bid brighter flows than Jordan's fill the seas;
 Soon shall the clouds to gold meridian skies;
 The now far learning smiles in rosy morn.

And for their art beyond mechanic teach;
 The double circuits of revolving spheres;
 Exulting mannaers their sons shall teach
 To perhaps, not distant from their ripen'd years.

O'er which rejoicing rolls the car of day,
 The watch-hours of our train be found,
 And note the progress of our easting way;
 Science shall mark the earth's diurnal round.

* Miss Seward's elegies on these objects.

Alterations

St. 2.1 2.1 - Seamen make their shoes

1871

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